

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/885,069

Examiner

Irakli Kiknadze

Applicant(s)

ISODA ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Interview Summary dated May 27, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 60,66,126 and 132-160.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/329,320.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 05242004
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 2-5, filed April 30, 2004, with respect to claims 60, 66, 126 and 132-160 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 60, 66, 126 and 132-160 has been withdrawn.

Claims 60, 66, 126 and 132-160 are currently pending in this application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Cameron W. Beddard (Reg. No. 46,545) on May 27, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 60, line 17, " conversion devices constituting said are sensor." Should read -- wherein said line light source is constituted of an organic EL device. --.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 60, 66, 126 and 132-160 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 60, 133-135, 145, 149, 153 and 157 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a radiation image read-out method, comprising the steps of: receiving light, which is emitted from a linear area of a front surface of a stimuable phosphor sheet exposed to the linear stimulating rays with a line sensor comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion devices arrayed along a length direction of the linear area of the stimuable phosphor sheet, the received light being subjected to photoelectric conversion performed by the line sensor, and successively reading outputs of the photoelectric conversion devices of the line sensor in accordance with the movement, wherein a line light source is constituted of an organic EL device as claimed in claim 60. Claims 133-135, 145, 149, 153 and 157 are allowable by virtue of their dependence.

Claims 66, 136-138, 146, 150, 154 and 158 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a radiation image read-out method, comprising steps of: receiving light, which is emitted from the area of the front surface of the stimuable phosphor sheet exposed to the stimulating rays with an area sensor comprising a plurality of arrayed photoelectric conversion devices, the received light being subjected to photoelectric conversion performed by the area sensor, and reading outputs of the photoelectric conversion devices constituting the area sensor, wherein a surface light source is constituted of an organic EL device as claimed in claim 66. Claims 136-138, 146, 150, 154 and 158 are allowable by virtue of their dependence.

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Claims 126, 139-141, 147, 151, 155 and 159 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a radiation image read-out apparatus, comprising: scanning means for moving the stimuable phosphor sheet with respect to a line light source and a line sensor and in a direction different from a length direction of a linear area of the stimuable phosphor sheet, and reading means for successively reading outputs of the photoelectric conversion devices of the line sensor in accordance with the movement, wherein the line light source is constituted of an organic EL device as claimed in claim 126. Claims 139-141, 147, 151, 155 and 159 are allowable by virtue of their dependence.

Claims 132, 142-144, 148, 152, 156 and 160 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a radiation image read-out apparatus, comprising: an area sensor for receiving light, which is emitted from the area of a front surface of the stimuable phosphor sheet exposed to the stimulating rays, and performing photoelectric conversion of the received light, the area sensor comprising a plurality of arrayed photoelectric conversion devices, and reading means for reading outputs of the photoelectric conversion devices constituting the area sensor, wherein a surface light source is constituted of an organic EL device as claimed in claim 132. Claims 142-144, 148, 152, 156 and 160 are allowable by virtue of their dependence.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irakli Kiknadze whose telephone number is 571-272-2493. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00- 5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on 571-272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Irakli Kiknadze
May 27, 2004

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DAVID V. BRUCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER